

LONG THE TEXAN GULF SHORE

As a Winter Resort the Gulf Coast of Texas Is Becoming More and More Appreciated

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 21.—Located as it is on an island entirely surrounded by the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston is an ideal winter resort, and as such is each year attracting more and more of the winter tourists of the Northern and Eastern States. With ample hotel accommodations of the very best and with many opportunities for outdoor life in what is the coldest part of the winter in the North, there is offered to the winter pleasure seeker every chance to enjoy life.

Perhaps of first consideration to every winter tourist is the matter of hotel accommodations, and here that problem is answered definitely and without trouble, for there are three good hostels, the Royal, Tremont and Galvez, that are in every way first class institutions operated on the European plan. Of these the Galvez is perhaps the most magnificent resort hotel of the State and certainly the best one located on a Gulf port. It was built by citizens and business institutions of Galveston, who subscribed for stock, and was erected at a total cost of \$1,000,000.

This hotel is on the Seawall Boulevard, about the center, and its rooms afford a view of the seawall, beach and Gulf. A long fishing pier is to be erected leading straight out from the hotel a distance of 1,000 feet into the Gulf for use of guests of the hotel.

The city of Galveston is at the eastern end of the island of the same name, an island some thirty-one miles long. Immediately south of the city proper begins the beach, level and smooth as glass, where there is afforded the very finest of automobile roads for either racing or pleasure driving and where a course thirty miles long straightaway may be laid off for such uses. It is along this beach that some of the biggest automobile races of the South have been held in the last three years, the August race carnival being one of the biggest attractions of the city, and now the Galveston Commercial Association is planning a midwinter carnival automobile race meet that bid fair to be a great success.

Eight miles across the bay on the mainland are located some fine golf links, where those devoted to that game may play the year around. Near the golf links there have been established several polo grounds.

There is always good fishing in the bayous and creeks of the island, where Spanish mackerel, salt water trout and other fine fish abound, so that on days when they are running good it has been considered no feat at all for one fisherman to land as many as 100 fine mackerel. Jewfish is a great sport, with many monstrous fish weighing anywhere from 100 to 750 pounds of this variety having been landed here during the last six months, and with an occasional ray, fish, stingray or porcupine fish to add to the string the fishing has proved itself a most interesting sport to summer and winter visitors alike.

In the winter months there is fine hunting near by. On the lower end of the island, where there are many shallow bays and bayous, as well as much low, marshy land, there are occasional great numbers, and the Federal and State laws are all that limit the number of birds bagged and brought home by the hunter. Brant and wild geese are also plentiful in December, January and February of each year, coming south to avoid the cold weather of northern climes and coming here because of the excellent feeding ground they find, and in addition a hunter remains in the field the entire day to bag his day limit of twenty-five birds of any one variety.

That palms grow in abundance here is sufficient evidence of the mildness of the climate, but there are even better proofs than that. So seldom does the mercury drop toward the freezing mark that pot plants are kept outdoors every day in the year, and it is truly said that Galveston has more than 300 beautiful days in every 365 of the calendar. Even the tender banana plant has been cultivated with ease here, not in commercial quantities because the island is too small for a paying banana plantation, but by individuals who admire the tree.

With the causeway completed, connecting island with mainland by steam road, interurban and wagon roadway, the pleasure seeker stopping at Galveston is by no means confined to the island itself, for he can easily go by rail or automobile to any of the numerous fine hunting grounds, links, etc., on the mainland.

A completely protected waterway 200 miles long in shape of an intercoastal canal, which has been opened between Galveston and Corpus Christi, gives a fine passageway for small craft and pleasure boats, so that any of the best hunting grounds of the Texas coast may be reached by small boat in safety and with comfort at any season of the year.

to any desired section and with no fear of worse than a warm rain coming to mar the journey.

Despite the fact that the more tropical isles have drawn most of the yachting visitors and pleasure seeking parties, Galveston has not been without these visitors in past winter seasons. Galveston Bay, extending twenty-six miles to the east and almost as far to the west, located between islands and the mainland, affords a fine place for short boat cruises, and this bay opens into other protected waterways which give, combined, a chance to enjoy all kinds of excursions by water.

Surf bathing is of course at its best in the hotter summer months but there are bathing parties during every month of the year. A large crowd was in at one of the pavilions last New Year's Day and there are here several bathers who never miss their morning dip in the surf.

Just at present there is quite an added attraction for those visiting Galveston, no matter what the month of their arrival. Twelve full regiments of infantry, cavalry, artillery and signal corps are stationed here, comprising the entire second division of the United States army, and a visit to army quarters is always interesting, for there are stationed here now more soldiers than were ever quartered in the largest army post of the United States. The tents at their camping grounds are being floored, indicating they will be mobilized here for many months yet, and the soldiers are now starting their annual target practice, which lasts some four months each year. Machine gun firing, artillery practice and shoulder rifle work are done at different times and afford a sight rarely offered the average American.

Galveston is reached from New York by the fine steamers of the Mallory Line, a real de luxe tourist and passenger service.

AUGUSTA EXPECTS BUSY SEASON.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—With the opening of the Hotel Bon Air on December 17, the Hampton Terrace on January 1 and the formal opening of the Partridge Inn some time in January, Augusta looks forward to a larger tourist season than ever before. Already the Partridge Inn, which opened informally the early part of the month, is rapidly filling with guests. There are fifty or more people, mostly from New York, at this charming hostelry at the present time.

Apartment houses have been reserved upon order from former President William Howard Taft, who will come for a stay at the Hotel Bon Air some time during the latter part of March or the first of April. Mr. Taft has reserved apartments for the entire season so as to assure his having them upon his arrival. The Rockefeller family, who are already in the city, are on the same floor of the Bon Air at opposite ends of the hallway.

Some improvements are being made at the Bon Air which will increase the attractiveness of the place and the comfort and convenience of the guests this winter. A landscape gardener has laid out many shady walks and additional trees have been put out. The two eighteen hole golf courses are in fine condition and the usual holiday events will take place. The Country Club is hard by the Bon Air and the Partridge Inn.

Already and as an indication of what may be expected of the season half the apartments at the Bon Air have been engaged for parts of the season. The doors of the Partridge Inn are already open, though the place will not be formally opened until next month. Among the guests who have engaged apartments for the season are Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bonnell, G. E. Spofford, G. E. Leonard and William McKinley, Jr., all of New York. Theodore H. Price and party stopped at the Partridge Inn for a few days not long ago.

The Hampton Terrace Hotel, perched upon the crest of a hill beyond North Augusta on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River and in Aiken county, overlooking the city, has recently been purchased by James U. Jackson and a syndicate and some improvements are being made, but the hotel will be ready for the opening of the first of the new year.

In addition to the hotels there are numbers of pretty cottages on the Hill beyond the Bon Air and the Partridge Inn which will be occupied this year, many of them having already been engaged, but the cottages do not as a rule begin to arrive until after the Christmas holidays. Mrs. A. A. Pope and party, including Mrs. George C. Sherard, arrived from New York last week in the private car Ideal and have occupied the Kurn cottage on the Milledgeville road in Summerville, where they will spend the winter months.

AMERICA HAS ITS OWN ENGADINE

From Lake George comes this opinion quoted from a recent magazine article: "To me it has always been a mystery, and always will be, I suppose, why with the inexhaustible climatic possibilities of our own country we feel the necessity of rushing to the Old World in search of health resorts. Whether it be the relaxation of the tropics we need or the electric salubrity of the North or the temperate temperature of a middle course we have them all within touch on this continent. In going abroad for what we may have for the asking here seems therefore like



The sea wall which was built up at Galveston after the flood. It makes a wonderful promenade and one much appreciated.

a sort of snobbish admiration for only those things which have a foreign stamp. "Appropos of St. Moritz lake, for instance, our own Adirondack region around Lake George. Though lacking the altitude of the Swiss resort and some of the grandiose scenery there is no place in the world where the air is purer or the surroundings are more delightful to the eye and pleasing to the physical being. This applies to the whole year round, but in winter the conditions are particularly fascinating. The crystal air is light as the bubbles that rise in a glass of champagne, and, scented with the balsamic odor of the pine clad hills, it is just as exhilarating, with the difference that the exhilaration is lasting.

"As for the hibernial sports that make such a play in the popularity of St. Moritz they all may be indulged in to the heart's content at Lake George. The lake, for miles a sheet of glassy ice, gives ample opportunity for skating experts to cut across of grapevines, pigeon wings, alphabets and other figures dear to their cleverness; for those who love to skim over the smooth surface in the fleet and thrilling ice yacht the field is limitless almost, and curling, hockey and other ice sports may hold as much sway as any phase. The snow enveloped mountains offer everything to be desired for the exponents of the comparatively recently introduced sport of skiing, and tobogganing, for others who want the tonic of outdoor sports without great exertion, may be had at its best.

"Where is the necessity therefore of a 4,000 mile journey to the Engadine when the same thing lies within six hours of New York? The opening of the new Fort William Hotel as a winter establishment offers the means of a sojourn at Lake George in all the comfort and luxury of the most famous hostels across the Atlantic. Directly on the shore, a great windows of its public rooms and many of its apartments command a full view of the lake and the thousand foot towers slide just behind, so that visitors who wish to take only a passive part in the sports have the whole panorama before them and may enjoy all its exciting incidents with no more personal exertion than the moving of a rocking chair.

"The new Fort William Hotel, though not so large as the old caravansary it replaces, is fireproof and replete with everything that goes toward the making of the perfect hotel. The 150 guests it houses find themselves surrounded with every care and attention that can be devised and we know that in devising comforts for modern hotels the American boniface is sans pareil, as he is also in devising amusements for his patrons. So I repeat, with the possibilities of Lake George so conveniently at hand and so delightfully administered, where is the necessity of tearing off to the Engadine to revel in curling, skating, skiing, tobogganing, etc.?"

It doesn't take long for one of the

gunning or any other of the invigorating winter sports?"

SAILING THE SANDS AT ORMOND.

It is claimed for Ormond that this popular winter resort has the finest beach in Florida. Motor car races continue during the season, and this is one sport which Ormond has to offer visitors which no other resort can equal.

But the beach is good for other purposes. Here they have the "sand sailers," a sport which is not in evidence in the North. They are simply sailboats on wheels; and with fast breezes behind them these carriers can whiz over the hard sand at a surprising rate.

Ormond is on the Halifax River and on the ocean and offers either river or surf bathing. Its beach is thirty miles long and besides offering a fine straightaway track for automobiles it gives bicyclists a chance to revive their interest in their sport. There is excellent boating and fishing and the country back from the ocean is full of game for the hunters. The climate ranges from 65 to 70 degrees.

A new clubhouse has been built with broad, cool verandas, where one can sit and watch the bathers on the beach on one side and the golfers trading after their balls on the other. There are daily concerts at the clubhouse.

SHARK FISHING AT DAYTONA.

One of the favorite sports of Daytona is shark fishing, a sport for kings and one which is for the strong and agile and not for the lazy and weak. Sharks, not of man eating size, are numerous here, and those who love the sport of catching them stretch along the beach of a morning, feeling sure they will get enough later to make their day happy. All that is necessary is several hundred feet of stout line, a shark hook, almost as large as the bale hooks we see here and a strong pole. This pole is driven two or three feet into the sand, which holds it as in a vise. One end of the line is tied to the pole, the hook, baited with about five pounds of steak, is fastened securely to the other, and the hook is then thrown far out into the ocean, as far as the fisherman can hurl it. It doesn't take long for one of the

monsters of the sea to see the bait, and he grabs it with a rush and a swoop that pulls the line out 100 feet or so. Then the shark is jerked back slightly, and the fisherman if he wants sport can grasp the line and try his strength against the shark's mighty pull. One tug from shore, and the shark is off again, making the rope hum merrily as it scrapes along the sand. The fisherman, backed by the stake, can haul and haul, but the shark is strong enough to fight against the weight of the line and the strength of the fisherman for hours.

At last his own efforts exhaust him, and he is pulled into shallow water to flounder about until he is so weakened that it is easy to land him. Sharks from four to ten feet long are caught this way.

Bathing in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, off Galveston. Looks like Atlantic City on a busy summer day, doesn't it?

Motoring Over Excellent Roads Is Another Attraction Offered to Northerners in Lone Star State

These sharks do not affect the bathing at all. They are not large enough. Daytona is as fortunate in climate as the other fine resorts in Florida, and offers fishing, boating, tennis and golf, chair riding, automobilism, concerts, balls and the attractions offered by the other winter resorts. It has some fine hotels, which are modern in every way.

IN ANDREW JACKSON'S VILLA.

JACKSONVILLE, far up in the northern end of the State, is the commercial metropolis of Florida, but besides that it has interest. Jacksonville has been called by some the most enterprising city in Florida, with its picturesque, with its clean, straight streets, paved with vitrified brick and lined with better orange trees.

The roads outside of the town are of crushed shell and glisten in the sun. One of the drives which all visitors take is over the viaduct, where a view, almost birdseye, may be obtained of the whole town.

There is the trip to the Confederate Monument, and another afternoon may be spent in gazing at the marvels of the Florida Ostrich Farm, where squat birds with lanky necks strut about bearing what are destined soon to bring big prices on Fifth avenue.

The town is the gateway of Florida, and the thrifty citizens, with this knowledge in their minds, have taken advantage of their position. The climate is warm and dry and in the winter is found to be quite fine enough by many who go to Florida for their health.

By making the city a place of beauty

and by the presence of many fine hotels, the citizens of Jacksonville, by virtue of their position, have been enabled to get a good share of the tourist and vacation trade. One going south has to stop over at Jacksonville, and the inhabitants of that city make one's stay so pleasant that the visitor does not feel it necessary or advisable to go on.

The city maintains a fine system of parks, of which perhaps the best is Riverside Park, with beautiful lakes, winding drives and walks, hardwood trees, live oak trees, water oaks and palms.

Much of the city is new. Several blocks of buildings were destroyed in 1901 by a fire which did \$15,000,000 worth of damage, and these have been replaced by handsomer and more modern structures.

There are several good hotels, among which are the new Hotel Windle, the Shelbourne, the Aragon and the Waverly. The city, which was named after Gen. Andrew Jackson, owns its electric light plant and its water works. The population is about 60,000.

There is plenty of bathing in the St. John's River, on which the city is located, and the country near by furnishes the opportunities for excursions by boat, by horse, by automobile or on foot. The ocean is twenty-two miles away, not far enough to daunt an automobilist, and with the city as a centre all kinds of trips may be made.

Huntmen, planning a trip into the wild country far from any civilization, make this city their headquarters, and after going south find all the advantages of Northern cities in the shops. There are several clubs for those who winter here, and fine golf links.

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